



MUCC's 2017 ADOPTED POLICY RESOLUTIONS

A summary of conservation policies adopted by MUCC's membership (and their sponsors) at the 2017 MUCC Annual Convention held in June included:

- Support for the use of bait barrels on public land for bear hunting (Mike Thorman, Michigan Hunting Dog Federation)
- Support to allow hunters to possess and use both a crossbow and legal firearm, simultaneously, while hunting deer during the December muzzleloader and late antlerless seasons (except the Upper Peninsula December deer seasons) (Millard Holton, Individual Member)
- Support creation of a sandhill crane hunting season in the state of Michigan (Saginaw Field and Stream)
- Support to designate mourning doves as a gamebird (Jim Pryce, Region 8 Policy Board)
- Support development of a short term (7 day) non-resident waterfowl license system (Ducks Unlimited, Inc.)
- Support for Michigan pheasant release for hunter recruitment (Ken Dalton, Individual Member)
- Support educating hunters about the risks of hunting from a treestand without a full body harness/fall arrest system (Tim Kobasic and Fred Truschke, Policy Board and the Tomahawk Archers)
- Support reintroduction of Lake Herring (Cisco) in Saginaw Bay (Saginaw Field and Stream Club)
- Oppose the use of resistance board weirs in terms of research impacting fisheries and angler experience (Cedar Rod and Gun Club)
- Oppose the sale or exchange of State of Michigan-owned or managed lands greater than 80 acres, or parcels which would restrict public riparian access without having been previously designated "excess" or "surplus" through a transparent process (Paul Rose, Past President)
- Oppose or seek to amend any legislation which requires the expenditure of the DNR funds for tasks or functions which may result in a diversion of hunting and fishing license revenue or funding whose use may otherwise be restricted (Paul Rose, Past President)
- Support Michigan adopting a stance that any cervid carcass brought into Michigan (whether taken from a wild or captive population be in the form of deboned meat, clean skullcap, finished taxidermy, and/or other parts not anticipated to carry CWD prions, and work to increase fines and penalties for violations of this whole carcass prohibition, and work to make this a federal regulation (U.P. Whitetails of Marquette County)
- Support captive cervid regulation reform (Michigan State Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association)
- Support the removal of regulations for suppressors from the National Firearms Act of 1934 and work with legislature to allow the purchase of a suppressor to follow the same guidelines

currently in place to purchase firearms through the NICS (National Instant Criminal Background Check System) program (South Kent Sportsman's Club)

- Support the acquisition of severed minerals where the State owns the surface only to protect and control the commercial use of public land, and highest priority should be given to minerals in State Parks and lands purchased with PR and Game and Fish Funds (Michigan Resource Stewards)
- Support reinstating cormorant control (Straits Area Sportsmen's Club)

Resolution #2017-02
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Mike Thorman, Michigan Hunting Dog Federation
MUCC Region: 9
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017
Title: **BEAR BAITING WITH BARRELS**

WHEREAS, many states and Canada use barrels for baiting bears; and
WHEREAS, bait barrels are currently only legal on private property in Michigan; and
WHEREAS, there would be benefits of also allowing the use of bait barrels on public property; and
WHEREAS, steel barrels with a secure lid can help for comparison in judging the size of a bear; and
WHEREAS, there is a problem with wolves in the Upper Peninsula; and
WHEREAS, wolves would not be able to access bait in a barrel with 3 holes no more than a ½ inch in diameter; and
WHEREAS, hunters who plan on using barrels on public property shall be required to purchase 3 tags from the DNR identifying the owner, which must be posted at the bait site; and
WHEREAS, barrels must be anchored to a post in the ground with a chain or cable no more than 8 feet in length; and
WHEREAS, this would help prevent bait sites from becoming littered; and
WHEREAS, hunters using bait barrels shall be required to remove barrels at the end of the season, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resource Commission (NRC) to allow the use of bait barrels on public property in Michigan.

Resolution #2017-03
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Millard H. Holton, Individual Member
MUCC Region: 7
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017
Title: **ALLOW HUNTERS TO POSSESS AND USE BOTH A CROSSBOW AND LEGAL FIREARM, SIMULTANEOUSLY, WHILE HUNTING DEER DURING THE DECEMBER MUZZLELOADER AND LATE ANTLERLESS SEASONS (EXCEPT THE UPPER PENINSULA DECEMBER DEER SEASONS)**

WHEREAS, the 2016 Michigan Hunting and Trapping Digest explains each hunting season and what weapons can be used, or those prohibited in each; and
WHEREAS, the firearm deer hunter may carry afield [during the firearm deer season] a bow and arrow, crossbow and firearm (page 20); and
WHEREAS, both a Spring and September turkey hunter can legally possess a shotgun, bow or crossbow at the same time; and
WHEREAS, during the Mentored Youth Hunting Season, "The mentor is limited to two hunting devices (shotgun, rifle, bow or crossbow) in the field..." (page 26); and

WHEREAS, a deer combo license allows a hunter to use both kill tags in either the firearms season, the muzzleloader season, the archery seasons, or use one license in any of these seasons (page, 31); and

WHEREAS, "A crossbow can be used during any season in which a firearm is allowed, for both big and small game, except hunters in the Upper Peninsula may not use a crossbow or a modified bow during the December 1-January 1 late archery deer season and December muzzleloader season..." (page 18); and

WHEREAS, during the December muzzleloader seasons (except in the Upper Peninsula) a deer hunter is limited to possessing either a crossbow or a muzzleloading firearm (page 21); and

WHEREAS, it is illegal to possess a crossbow and a firearm at the same time, in the field, during the late antlerless deer season which requires a separate Antlerless Deer License (page 17, 2015 Michigan Antlerless Deer Digest); and

WHEREAS, hunter orange clothing is required in all deer seasons where a firearm may be used unless using a bow or crossbow during an archery season (page 18); and

WHEREAS, allowing a hunter to hunt deer with more than one type of legal weapon and ammunition in December firearms seasons could increase hunting opportunities, hunter participation and hunter satisfaction, and boost legal harvesting success, with minimal harm to the Natural Resources. **NOW**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and frame a Wildlife Order that would eliminate certain, conflicting or contradictory statements and confusion from the Hunting Digests, along with removing the prohibition against possessing and using a crossbow and legal firearm, simultaneously, during the December firearms seasons (except in the U.P.); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the MUCC, the DNR and NRC work out the hunter orange requirements the above changes would create, along with aligning the elements of the December firearms deer seasons with those presently enjoyed by hunters during the November deer season.

Resolution #2017-04
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Saginaw Field and Stream Club
MUCC Region: 6
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017
Title: **SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING (GRUS CANADENSIS)**

WHEREAS, Sandhill Cranes have a viable population, which resides and migrates through the State of Michigan; and

WHEREAS, over 16 other states along with Canada and Mexico have Sandhill Crane Seasons, and

WHEREAS, Michigan Hunters have to leave the state to enjoy this sport; and

WHEREAS, there is no scientific reason why we should not hunt this game bird; and

WHEREAS, this recognized game bird is responsible for a lot of crop damage. **NOW**,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and anyone else to establish a Sandhill Crane Hunting Season in the State of Michigan by unit.

Resolution #2017-05
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Jim Pryce, Region 8 Policy Board
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017
Title: **DESIGNATE MOURNING DOVE AS A GAMEBIRD**

WHEREAS Governor Snyder signed Senate Bill 1187 into law reaffirming the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act ensuring that fish, wildlife, and conservation decisions are made by the State of Michigan's professional fish and wildlife biologists using sound scientific management methods; and
WHEREAS the most popular gamebird in the United States is the mourning dove in which over 20 million are harvested annually in 42 States including surrounding States of Michigan (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana, Ohio, and Illinois); and

WHEREAS the mourning doves are prolific breeders and can have up to six broods a year which are more than any other bird species and a mourning dove's life span is less than 1 year. It is a great species to introduce to beginning hunters, youth hunters, and it is a great way to ensure hunting for the elderly and disabled hunters with mobility issues; and

WHEREAS in 2006, the State of Michigan had a successful dove season when Act 160 of 2006 listed the dove as a gamebird until the 2006 election vote on a referendum sponsored by out of state anti-hunting groups misguided Michigan's voters with untruths about doves and hunters, in a similar way that they have done with wolves. **NOW**,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Michigan Legislature to eliminate the unnecessary restrictions on the Natural Resources Commission in naming game species; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Natural Resource Commission and Michigan's wildlife biologists use sound science to once again designate the mourning dove as a gamebird.

Resolution #2017-06
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
MUCC Region: 9
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017
Title: **DEVELOPMENT OF A SHORT TERM (7 DAY) NON-RESIDENT WATERFOWL LICENSE SYSTEM**

WHEREAS, Michigan is a premier destination for waterfowl hunters throughout the Midwest, and
WHEREAS, Michigan’s requirement for non-resident waterfowl hunters is that they must purchase the annual non-resident base license at \$151 in addition to the \$12 Waterfowl License, and
WHEREAS, Michigan’s current waterfowl hunting license system does not provide a comparable cost short term waterfowl license package similar to surrounding states – Michigan’s current fees for non-residents are 2-3 times higher, and
WHEREAS, non-resident waterfowl license buyers have declined 27 percent since the new license structure was implemented in 2014, and
WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other waterfowl groups have received multiple complaints regarding the high cost for a weekend of waterfowl hunting, often from visiting family members, and
WHEREAS, there are easy and practical methods to fix this situation, such as providing that the current 7-day non-resident small game license include waterfowl hunting, with an accompanying Michigan waterfowl license, or some other developed solution, and
WHEREAS, the proposed solution does not add additional licenses and maintains the simplified structure of the most recent license package, **NOW**,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, the Michigan Legislature and waterfowl conservation groups to provide for a short term non-resident waterfowl license system; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MUCC explore and develop legislative changes to implement a short term non-resident waterfowl license system.

Resolution #2017-07
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Ken Dalton, Individual Member
MUCC Region: 8
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017
Title: **MICHIGAN PHEASANT RELEASE FOR HUNTER RECRUITMENT**

WHEREAS, the current regulations state that pheasants not established in the wild (farmed) in the state may be released and shot on licensed preserves; and

WHEREAS, individuals may buy birds from licensed breeders of pheasants to release on their own private land to hunt as well, but are prohibited (with some exceptions as allowed by the land manager) from releasing ring-necked pheasants and other game birds on state-owned lands; and

WHEREAS, The Michigan Pheasant Restoration Initiative (MPRI) is a conservation initiative to restore and enhance Michigan pheasant habitat, populations and hunting opportunity on private and public lands; and

WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has discontinued its own pheasant breeding and release program; and

WHEREAS, there is a large segment of hunters who recall their first experience in hunting was through pheasant and other small game and wish to pass this experience on to generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the “Michigan Pheasant Release for Hunter Recruitment” initiative has a mission to recruit and retain our pheasant hunting heritage as many other states are already doing through release; and

WHEREAS, the desired outcome is to release pheasants on state game areas in order to recruit and retain small game hunters and provide opportunity for success because of the yearly decline in young hunters; and

WHEREAS, this is not a program to re-establish a pheasant population, this is strictly for hunter recruitment, retention and opportunity; and

WHEREAS, The Natural Resources Commission, in consultation with DNR biologists, would establish and oversee the source of pheasants and breeding standards (whether private breeders or DNR facilities are used), release guidelines (not to do it in an area of bird disease, only to release in well-established habitat on publicly-accessible lands, etc) and any other regulations or policy necessary; and

WHEREAS, there is a goal to establish a long-term, user-pay funding source through either the creation of a pheasant stamp or purchasing separate pheasant tags (as we do for deer and turkey); and

WHEREAS, this investment will give opportunity and provide additional income to local game bird breeders, dog breeders, sporting goods stores, restaurants, hotels, and many more. **NOW,**

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Michigan Legislature, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to support the Michigan Pheasant Release for Hunter Recruitment with the mission, goals, and outcomes indicated.

Resolution #2017-08

Submitted by: Tim Kobasic, MUCC Conservation Policy Board; Fred Truschke, MUCC Conservation Policy Board; and Tomahawk Archers
MUCC Region: 2, 3, and 8
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017
Title: **TREESTAND SAFETY**

WHEREAS, treestand falls are the top source of serious deer hunting injuries in the United States, with an estimated 5,600 reported injuries in 2015 by the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS); and

WHEREAS, two men in different Michigan counties died on the same weekend in October, 2016 from treestand falls; and

WHEREAS, the Tree Stand Safety Awareness Foundation conducted a study of 484 treestand falls from 2009-2015 in eight Midwest and Southeastern states (not including Michigan); and
WHEREAS, this study showed that 85% of falls occurred when the victim was not wearing a treestand harness; and
WHEREAS, of the 15% who were wearing a harness, in only one instance was the harness attached to the tree at the time of the fall; and
WHEREAS, falls occurred from all treestand types (32% loc-on, 24% climber, 20% ladder, 19% homemade); and
WHEREAS, 92.6% of falls resulted in injury, while 7.6% resulted in death; and
WHEREAS, 42% of falls occurred on stand, while 58% occurred while climbing, descending, transferring or erecting; and
WHEREAS, The Treestand Manufacturer Association's Treestand Safety Guidelines recommend always wearing a fall arrest system/full body harness, rather than a single-strap belt and chest harness. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Michigan United Conservation Clubs use its communication assets to educate hunters about the risks of hunting from a treestand without a fall arrest system/full body harness.

Resolution #2017-09
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Saginaw Field and Stream Club
MUCC Region: 6
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017
Title: **REINTRODUCTION OF LAKE HERRING (CISCO) IN SAGINAW BAY**

WHEREAS, Lake Herring (Cisco) were a native species in this region, and
WHEREAS, Lake Herring (Cisco) died out in the Saginaw Bay, lower Lake Huron in the 1950's mainly due to water pollution; and
WHEREAS, the Lake Herring (Cisco) is a deeper and cooler water fish, and
WHEREAS, the Lake Herring (Cisco) has its own niche in the food Web, and
WHEREAS, Lake Herring (Cisco) do not compete for the same food sources as Walleyes, and
WHEREAS, the Lake Herring (Cisco) will provide another forage fish for the lower Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay; and
WHEREAS, the Lake Herring (Cisco) will provide relief for the yellow perch, and
WHEREAS, the discussion to reintroduce the Lake Herring (Cisco) for over 15 years, and
WHEREAS, the Lake Huron Citizens Fishery Advisory Committee endorses this. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with and urge the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and any other agency, committee or group to get the Lake Herring (Cisco) reintroduced into Saginaw Bay, Lower Lake Huron.

Resolution #2017-10

Submitted by: Cedar Rod and Gun Club
MUCC Region: 3
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017
Title: **RESEARCH IMPACTING FISHERIES AND ANGLER EXPERIENCE**

WHEREAS, Access to public lands and waters and hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities is of paramount interest to the membership of Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC), as is the scientific management of our resources.

WHEREAS, a recent fisheries research project proposed by the Little River Band of the Ottawa Indians included the need for a temporary resistance board weir (RBW) on National Forest System lands in the Manistee River; and

WHEREAS, there was no analysis prior to the project development on the populations of sportfish that may be impacted by this resistance board weir, which could impede natural reproduction and could contribute to the mortality of non-target species. There was also no analysis on the use of this stretch of river by anglers, commercial fishing guides, paddlers, or other recreational users, whose use may be impeded (whether actual or perceived) by the resistance board wier resulting in a negative economic impact on the community; and

WHEREAS, while MUCC generally supports fisheries research to achieve management objectives, this Special Use Permit application deserves significant further analysis on the potential impacts of a resistance board weir (RBW) and possible alternatives before it should be approved.; and

WHEREAS, this example of research not considering the impact to non-target fisheries and angler recreation is only the most recent among others where the research biologists have not done a thorough analysis of recreational impacts or public scoping of their project prior to deciding a course of action for their study methodology; and

WHEREAS, the importance of the proposed study species versus other species cannot be overlooked when determining impact on lost license sales and fisherman hours on the affected waters; and

WHEREAS, it becomes very important that the impact study includes the possible advantages versus the disadvantages to all parties involved, loss of license revenue, loss of outdoor opportunities, lost days that cannot be recovered; and

WHEREAS, the MDNR should take an active role with USFS in conducting and analyzing the impact study and provide for public review. **NOW**,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Michigan Legislature if needed to implement a fisheries research policy that would:

- Engage sport fishing and conservation interests in scoping the needed research projects;
- Seek to avoid or reduce conflict with major seasonal runs of sport fish;
- Consider maintaining angler access to the maximum extent possible during the research period

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that MUCC recommends DNR only use of resistance board weirs for research purposes if: 1) the project development has included public input from anglers and others who may be impacted by the study and 2) that the benefits of the research outweighs the impact that research may have on the local non-target fisheries populations and recreational users.

Resolution #2017-11
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Paul Rose, MUCC Past President
MUCC Region: 4
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017

Title: "SURPLUS" STATE OF MICHIGAN-OWNED PUBLIC LAND DISPOSAL PROCESS

WHEREAS, in 2011 Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) adopted a resolution which opposed Senate Bill 248 (Land Cap Bill), and

WHEREAS, in 2012, SB 248 was signed into law by Governor Snyder with the commitment that a strategic land plan be developed within two years which included a process of identifying "surplus" or "excess" State lands, and

WHEREAS, this [Public Land Management Strategy](#) was completed in July of 2013 by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and presented to the State Legislature for approval, and

WHEREAS, legislation which included approval of this Public Land Management Strategy was never brought out of House or Senate Committees for legislative consideration, and

WHEREAS, Senate Bills 39 and 40 proposed in the 2015-2016 legislative session would have required that the DNR consider applications for land sales and exchanges which involved state-owned public lands which have not been previously determined to be "surplus" or "excess," and

WHEREAS, a public engagement process has traditionally been employed in prior DNR "surplus" land identification efforts, **NOW**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) oppose any legislation or other Department of Natural Resources administrative activities which would allow for the sale or exchange of State of Michigan-owned or managed lands greater than 80 acres in size, or parcels which would restrict public riparian access without having been previously designated as "Excess" or "Surplus" from a published list which has been developed through a transparent process which includes a local and regional Departmental review, as well as a public comment or engagement process.

Resolution #2017-12
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Paul Rose, MUCC Past President

MUCC Region: 4

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017

Title: UNFUNDED MANDATES ON THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

WHEREAS, recently introduced and passed legislation has required significant expenditures of Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) funding for new field responsibilities for which no funding has been provided, and

WHEREAS, one such example is House Bill 5275 (P.A. 288 of 2016) which requires that the DNR complete a comprehensive road and trail mapping effort of the 4.6 million acres currently under State of Michigan management, and

WHEREAS, this legislation alone will likely require costs well in excess of the \$500,000 estimated in the legislation for which no funding was provided, and

WHEREAS, other recently proposed legislation such as Senate Bills 39 and 40 would have required significant expenditures of DNR staff time and field resources for land management, land sales and

exchange activities which expand those currently performed for what would also be a reduced fee structure, and

WHEREAS, legislation of this type requires the use of staff time for biologists, foresters and technicians for activities which would be inadequately funded, potentially shifting these costs to budget sources which include fisheries and wildlife management dollars. NOW,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) oppose or seek to amend any legislation which requires the expenditure of Michigan Department of Natural Resources funds for tasks or functions which may result in a diversion of hunting and fishing license revenue or funding whose use may otherwise be restricted, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any such legislation should include the appropriation of the necessary supplemental funding in an effort to avoid such a diversion before it would be supported by Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC).

Resolution #2017-13
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: U.P. Whitetails of Marquette County

MUCC Region: 1

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017

Title: **BRINGING CERVID CARCASSES INTO MICHIGAN FROM OTHER STATES**

WHEREAS, chronic wasting disease, (CWD), has been discovered in some 23 States, 3 Provinces and 1 Scandinavian country; and

WHEREAS, this number has been increasing and the number changing every year; and

WHEREAS, Michigan's current regulation prohibits whole cervid carcasses from being brought into the state from infected states and lists every state and province that has CWD, yet this list of CWD areas could change even before the Hunting Digest is published; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to simplify this regulation, increase penalties, and further reduce the chances of CWD or other diseases being brought into Michigan. **NOW**,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan adopt a stance that Minnesota, Montana and other states have adopted in that any cervid, (deer, moose, elk,...) carcass brought into Michigan (whether taken from a wild or captive population) be in the form of deboned meat, clean skullcap, finished taxidermy, and/or other parts not anticipated to carry CWD prions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan Legislature work to increase the fines and penalties for violations of this whole carcass prohibition; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and other federal agencies as necessary, with support from the Michigan delegation of U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives, work to make the prohibition of carcass movement a federal regulation.

Resolution #2017-14
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Michigan State Chapter of the Quality Deer Management Association
MUCC Region: 9
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017
Title: **CAPTIVE CERVID REGULATION REFORM**

WHEREAS, Chronic Wasting Disease poses an existential threat to Michigan’s deer herd and Michigan deer hunting.

WHEREAS, Chronic Wasting Disease, if it becomes established in the wild herd, cannot be eliminated using any currently known methods.

WHEREAS, Two captive cervid facilities in Michigan have contracted Chronic Wasting Disease

WHEREAS, there is a real threat of disease transmission if captive and wild deer can come into contact at a captive cervid facility fence line.

WHEREAS, the ongoing investigation into a Mecosta county captive cervid facility has exposed gaps in the current captive cervid regulations, enforcement process, and funding of necessary enforcement and disease control. **NOW**,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Department of Agriculture Wildlife Services, Quality Deer Management Association, and other interested parties, to reform captive cervid facility regulations to reduce the chance of Chronic Wasting Disease transmission between captive cervid facilities and the wild deer herd. These regulatory reforms shall include, but not be limited to:

- establishing double fencing to reduce opportunities for transmission through the fence,
- a mandatory supervised testing process to eliminate opportunities for illegal substitution of deer for testing from outside the facility,
- a state funding mechanism that would provide adequate funding for Chronic Wasting Disease surveillance and response both inside and outside of captive cervid facilities,
- improved cervid facility record keeping requirements,
- non removable cervid tagging,
- oversight of cervid transportation,
- a 30-day maximum period for depopulating an infected facility once the decision has been made to do so, and
- improved enforcement mechanisms.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these policies are intended to supplement the 2010 MUCC policy that requests that an immediate moratorium on new captive cervid facilities, imposes a strict schedule for expiration of registrations of facilities not in compliance, and limits future registrations to and by renewal, transfer, or sale of current registrations.

Resolution #2017-15
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: South Kent Sportsman’s Club
MUCC Region: 5

Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017
Title: **SUPPRESSOR TAX ELIMINATION**

WHEREAS, the use of suppressors for the taking of game was approved through the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) in 2016; and
WHEREAS, in certain situations, the sound of gun fire can cause nuisance noise complaints; and
WHEREAS, gun fire has been proven to cause hearing loss; and
WHEREAS, suppressors typically reduce the sound of gun shots by 20-35 decibels, roughly the same as your typical ear muffs/plugs; and
WHEREAS, as suppressors are currently regulated, you are required to pay an extra federal tax to protect your hearing while exercising rights protected through our second amendment
WHEREAS, there are currently 42 states where the private ownership of suppressors is legal. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, That MUCC works with the Michigan delegation of U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives to remove regulations for suppressors from the National Firearms Act of 1934; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That MUCC work with our U.S. and state legislature to allow the purchase of a suppressor to follow the same guidelines currently in place to purchase firearms through the NICS (National Instant Criminal Background Check System) program; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That MUCC supports suppressors being eligible for the Pitman Robertson excise tax.

Resolution #2017-16
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Michigan Resource Stewards
MUCC Region: 9
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017
Title: **STATE OWNED MINERAL EXCHANGES AND PURCHASES TO PROTECT PUBLIC LAND**

WHEREAS, Mineral exploration in Porcupine Mountain State Park has elevated public concern regarding mineral development in State Parks; and
WHEREAS, mineral development can be a conflict with the intended purpose of lands purchased with Pitman Robertson and Game and Fish funds; and
WHEREAS, the State owns approximately 700,000 acres of surface only where the minerals are severed and owned by a private entity; and
WHEREAS, the mineral estate is dominant and the surface owner has limited control over mineral exploration and development; and
WHEREAS, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources historically has supported the acquisition of private minerals where the surface is owned or managed by the State; and
WHEREAS, the State has the legal authority to buy and exchange minerals. **NOW,**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Michigan United Conservation Clubs urges the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to make it a priority to acquire severed minerals where the State owns the surface only to protect and control the commercial use of public land; and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the highest priority should be given to minerals in State Parks and lands purchased with PR and Game and Fish Funds.

Resolution #2017-17
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Straits Area Sportsmen’s Club
MUCC Region: 2
Passed: MUCC Annual Convention, June 17, 2017
Title: **REINSTATE CORMORANT CONTROL**

WHEREAS, The U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on May 25, 2016 vacated the depredation order for double-crested cormorants until the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prepares an adequate Environmental Assessment; and
WHEREAS, the double-crested cormorant have decimated game fish populations while their numbers are not kept in check; and
WHEREAS, game fish numbers are finally somewhat stable due to the past Depredation Order; and
WHEREAS, plenty of documentation exists from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Fisheries Division that shows the overwhelming success of cormorant control to the elevations of game fish populations. **NOW**,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reinstate the Public Resource Depredation Order on cormorants; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Michigan United Conservation Clubs work with our U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators to come up with a law to reinstate cormorant control.

FAILED RESOLUTION

Proposed Resolution #2017-01
Requires 2/3 Majority

Submitted by: Robert Pattison, St. Joseph County Conservation Club
MUCC Region: 7
Passed: MUCC Conservation Policy Board meeting, September 24, 2016, Failed at MUCC 2017 Annual Convention
Title: **YOUTH HUNTER SUPERVISION**

WHEREAS, the current law states that youth hunters who have completed a hunter safety course must be accompanied by an adult hunting, which is the same criteria for an apprentice youth hunter who have never held a gun; and

WHEREAS, the word “accompany” is defined to mean “to go along with and while staying within a distance from the person that permits uninterrupted, unaided visual and auditory communication”; and

WHEREAS, the current law does not acknowledge the different developmental levels that youth hunters are at, and there is no mechanism that relates these levels to the amount of supervision necessary; and

WHEREAS, treating these classes of youth hunters equally is illogical; and

WHEREAS, Michigan has three categories of youth hunters: youth who are eligible for the mentored youth hunting program; youth who are eligible for an apprentice license; and, youth who have completed a certified hunter safety program; and

WHEREAS, all three of these categories require adult supervision; and

WHEREAS, the current law recognizes the importance and value of supervision with a younger, inexperienced hunter, but does not recognize the importance and value of higher education and experience in youth hunters. **NOW**,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC) work with the Michigan Legislature, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) to institute the following: On private land only, not open to public access such as commercial forest act land, a minor who is at least 14 years old shall be permitted to hunt within a distance no greater than 660 feet from the parent or legal guardian which permits uninterrupted electronic communication and allows the parent or legal guardian to come to the immediate aid of the youth. The youth hunter **MUST** have completed all of the following criteria:

- has successfully completed a certified hunter safety program,
- has been properly licensed in the immediate two preceding seasons.